****

**City of Salisbury**

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 9, 2021**

**Committee Members Present**

Stephen Feliciano, *Chair*

Logan Prushansky

D’Shawn Doughty

Hannah Cechini

Rev. John Wright

Tyler Anderson
Cody Drinkwater
Amber Green

**Committee Members Absent**Ben Pheasant

Ron Pagano

**In Attendance**

Jessie Turner, *City of Salisbury staff*

Sally Perret, *Salisbury University*
James Yamakawa*, Wicomico Truth & Reconciliation Initiative*

**Moment of Silence—**6:05 pm

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Mr. Feliciano and introductions were made.

**Review of Minutes**

A motion to accept the minutes from August’s meeting was made by Mr. Feliciano and seconded by Rev. Wright.

**Current Works For Discussion**

* **Open To All Campaign**Mr. Feliciano has visited local businesses to provide information about the Open to All Campaign (OTAC). Establishments he visited included Ugly Pie, Mad Hatter, Mudhud, Together Café, and the skate shop. He is making a list of other businesses to visit and asked Ms. Prushansky to speak to the Yoga studio. Rev. Wright asked if the Mayor is on board and if the city can print brochures, but Mr. Feliciano explained that we have access to those through the campaign organization itself and there are plenty available, and that yes…the mayor is on board. It was discussed combining the Open to All Campaign with Kindness Commission and PFLAG with those organizations becoming ambassadors. Mr. Drinkwater also mentioned groups from SU getting involved with the OTAC and would be willing to help out with that. Sally Perret said a current and similar campaign is in place at Salisbury University called “Safe Space”.
* **Social Media Update**

Mr. Feliciano believes that we still need a social media presence and that we are at the final stage of making that happen. Mr. Pheasant was not present to go over the details, but will provide them in the future. Ms. Prushansky is willing to help with the creative aspect of building social media posts. Mr. Drinkwater also volunteered to help with social media.

**Public Forum and Current Events**

* Criminal Justice Reform Talk Force listening event Saturday, August 14, 2021 was attended by Mr. Feliciano. His opinion was that it was a great start. He was approached by multiple people asking about HRAC.
* Mr. Feliciano also attended a “Faith & Culture” forum at a local church. The church’s claim was to plan to discuss LGBTQ, and he wanted to see what was going on there. There was continued discussion about the motives and outcomes of this forum and alternatives that can be offered, such as an event coming up at Reverend Wright’s church.
* James Yamakawa’s Zoom meeting/updates: James is the head of the Wicomico Truth and Reconciliation Initiative. Part of the marker project is done and the group will be focusing on a potentially more “profound” movement to be involved in the establishment of a U.S. Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Commission (TRHT). Mr. Yamakawa states that national attention will be on Salisbury in coming years, as part of the movement “Not Just Tulsa”. The Commission itself will be very focused on policy change.

**Announcements**

* Website will be updated.
* Laura Baasland, former city liaison for HRAC, has resigned as an employee of the City of Salisbury**.**
* Cody Drinkwater will be appointed to HRAC by City Council on September 13, 2021.
* Wear masks and maintain social distancing at National Folk Festival.

**Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next weekend will be held Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 6:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.

**Minutes Taken By:** Jessie Turner, City of Salisbury staff liaison